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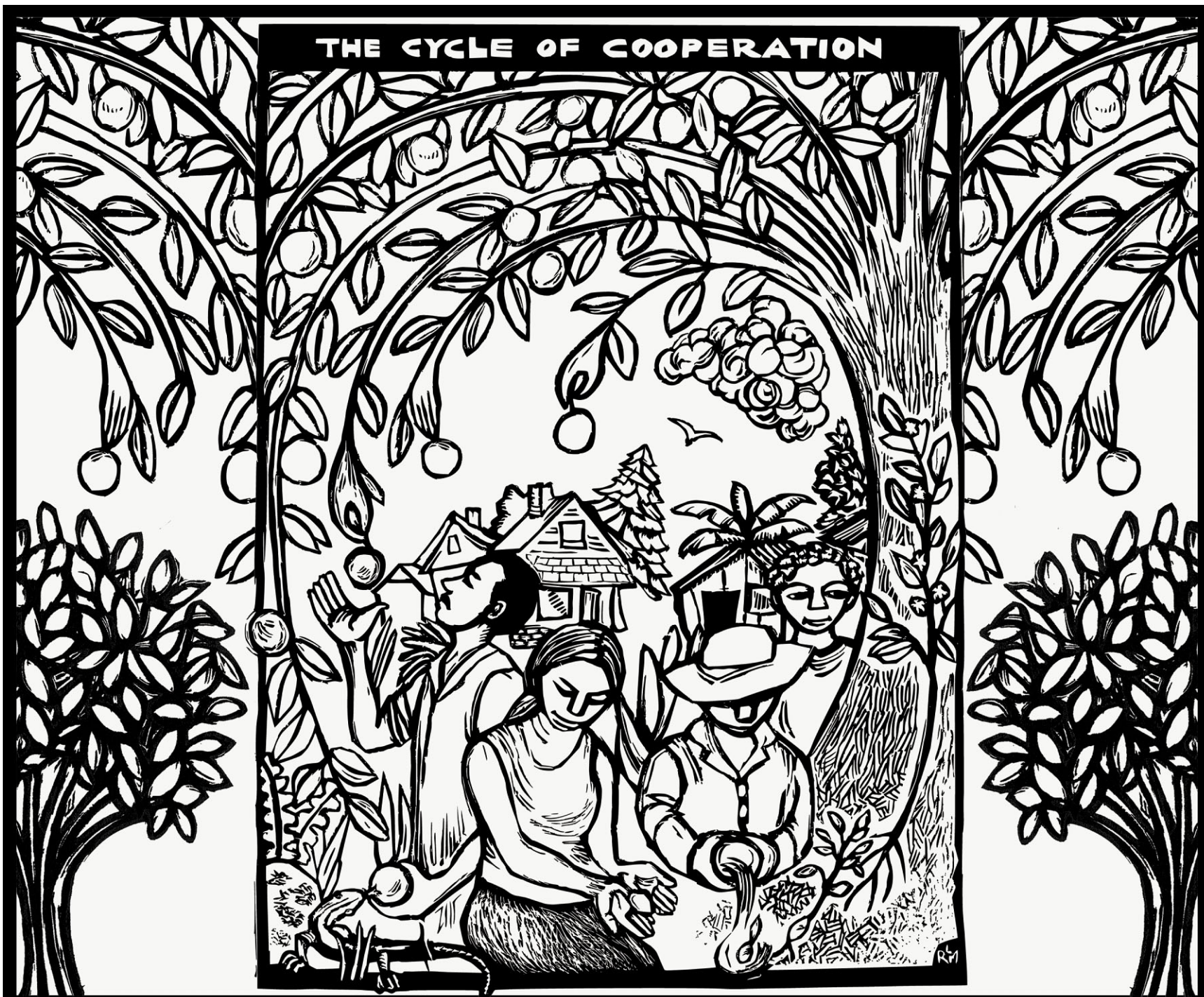
# CITY PAGES



## ISOLATION

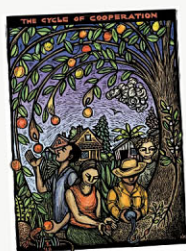
Portraits of Quarantine





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CITY PAGES  
HOUNDS  
AND HOPS

EST.  2017

Dog-ppelgänger

While we may never know who let the dogs out, we want to unearth answers to an even more profound question:

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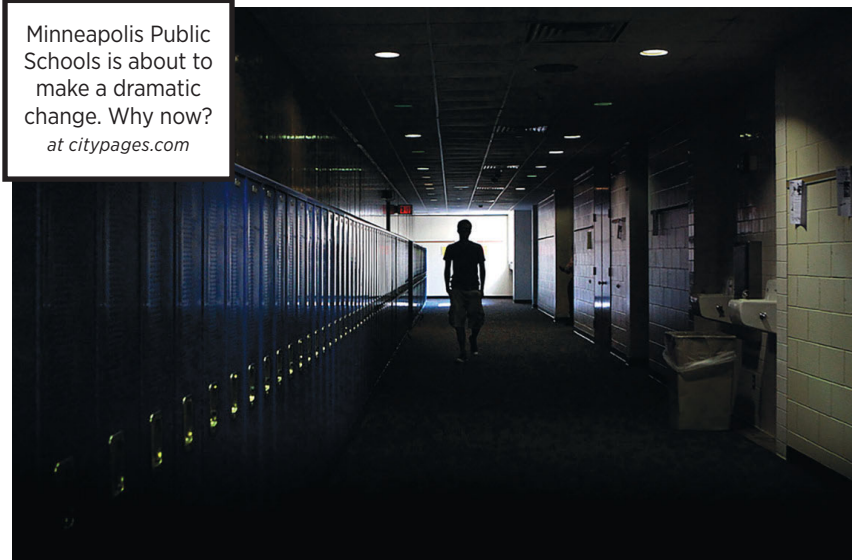
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**CITYPAGES**

## THE SHORTLIST

Minneapolis Public Schools is about to make a dramatic change. Why now? [at citypages.com](http://citypages.com)



JIM GEHRZ/STAR TRIBUNE

## THE STAT SHEET

**460**

Minnesota Department of Health "contact investigators" being hired to ID and contain COVID-19 clusters

**30 million**

Americans unemployed right now (roughly) due to COVID-19 closures

**\$200,000**

Fundraising campaign goal for north Minneapolis's Tawfiq Islamic Center electrical fire

**73.2 million**

User records from 10 businesses, including the Star Tribune, stolen by hacker collective ShinyHunters

**"Put a Big Mac in it and even Trump would wear one."**

Reader Mark Reller responds to "Could a 'snack mask' protect against COVID-19? We asked a scientist." at [citypages.com](http://citypages.com)

## NONPROFITS NOT THRIVING

**IT'S A TOUGH TIME** for life/business/literally everything in America right now, and nonprofits are, unfortunately, not exempt. The state's 9,000-ish organizations lost a combined \$1 billion—with a b—this April, according to a new report from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. Arts and health organizations got walloped the worst, but there's a financial crisis at *juust* about every one. "It's going to be a substantial impact for an unknown period of time," said Jon Pratt, executive director of the statewide council. "We're going to have to do things differently because the needs will have shifted dramatically, but also the resource base."

## POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

**ANTHONY TRIFILETTI** charged for killing unarmed black man in St. Paul

**SVEN SUNDGAARD** responds to KARE 11 firing

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St. Cloud, Minnesota, is becoming a **CORONAVIRUS HOT SPOT**

Sven Sundgaard fired by KARE 11 for **'ETHICS VIOLATIONS'**



# MYLIES

Minnesota man sues MyLife for implying he has a criminal record

**B**rion Finlay of Brooklyn Park recently started looking at new jobs.

When he started his search, Finlay, formerly an executive at a small engineering firm, did what many of us do to figure out what kind of brand we're putting out into the world. He did the ol' self-Google.

An entry near the top of the results page read, "Brion Finlay (C), 42- Minneapolis, MN Has Court or Arrest Records..."

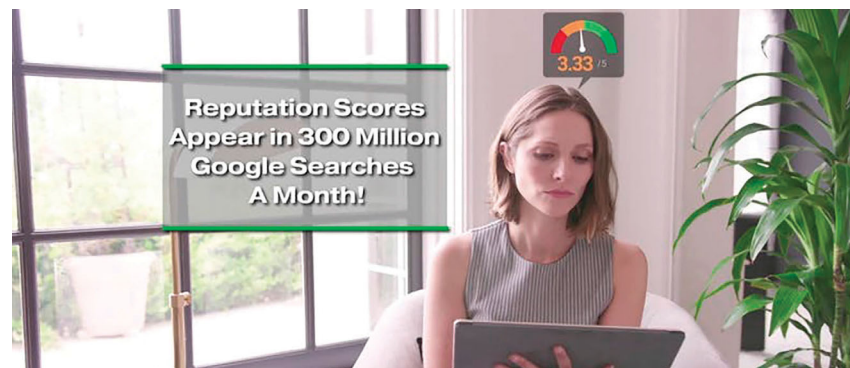
This, from a website called MyLife, was news to Finlay. He clicked the link, and the following webpage insisted, under a big red caution sign, "Brion DOES have Arrest or Criminal Records." It suggested he check out a full background report to find out what those might be.

"This may include any DUIs, traffic tickets, and outstanding warrants," the website warned.

If Finlay wanted control over the information displayed on his MyLife profile, he'd have to pony up and enroll in a monthly plan. According to a class action lawsuit filed against the company on Finlay's behalf, MyLife makes its bread and butter by tracking public data and compiling it into "reputation" scores searchable by name, ostensibly so clients, employers, or virtually anyone else can get the scoop before deciding to partner with you.

"Learn the truth about neighbors, home service providers, dates, even so called friends and more," the website says on its homepage. "To keep yourself safe."

As Finlay alleges in his complaint: "In actuality, MyLife's true business appears to be a classic cyber extortion scheme whereby the company posts negative information online in the hope that individuals will 'claim' the page... by enrolling in a monthly plan."



These, the complaint continued, could run between \$13.95 and \$16.95 a month.

Finlay's attorney, Dave Madgett, told MPR Finlay's record has nothing more serious than traffic tickets, which are not considered criminal offenses in Minnesota. But as long as MyLife suggested there might be something worse lurking in Finlay's past, potential employers could be put off.

Even if Finlay broke down and bought a plan, the complaint says, any attempts to improve his reputation score would be met with an upsell or two, asking users to "purchase additional levels of 'control' for the pages the company produces."

"As a result of [MyLife's] conduct, various

class members have suffered from intrusion into their personal affairs, anger, frustration, anxiety, and, in some cases, loss of employment opportunity and general standing in the community," the complaint alleges. The plaintiffs are seeking damages, and for MyLife to be unable to pull "such conduct in the future."

The company didn't respond to interview requests.

Some 13,700 customer complaints against MyLife have been filed with the Better Business Bureau in the last three years. MyLife has also already been sued by several other consumers for an array of offenses. —HANNAH JONES



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BY EMILY CASSEL  
& MIKE MULLEN

**W**e're all in hiding now. Those of us behind closed doors, in private, and masks, in public,

should be more grateful than ever for the curious eyes of the artist. Coronavirus and social distancing came as a sucker punch to Twin Cities photographers, who—with weddings canceled, concerts postponed, and paying gigs vanishing—ripped up their calendars and put away their equipment.

For a bit. Then that same restless energy that drives them to create in the first place stirred, and they found ways to depict this disorienting new reality—through windows, through computer screens, from a distance. It's a little stranger, this world they're capturing. But it's still beautiful.

#### EMILY UTNE

City Pages Art Director  
@emilyutnephography

I spent the first month of isolation not doing anything, being depressed, reading too many news articles, feeling super lethargic. And then I thought... I don't want to do that! I started collaging, and when I was sorting through my materials I was thinking, "I really want my own images to collage with." But I wanted new work. I found these pictures in a 1970s photography book of nude, fine-art pictures in windows, and I started thinking: "I should do my own."

It's been refreshing to be so spontaneous without planning something elaborate with stylists and makeup artists—I can't really plan it, I don't really know what they're going to wear when I get there, I don't know what the reflections on the window are going to look like. Am I going to have to stand in the neighbor's yard? Is it going to be raining? All the unknowns make it really exciting. I don't know exactly what I'm getting until I get home and I'm like, woah.

It's really about them being vulnerable and intimate. People are feeling a lot of emotions, and they're conveying that. The series captures feelings of seclusion, isolation, longing, and heartache. And there's a bit of voyeurism to it. I would say I'm trying to invoke or capture a timeless, visceral experience or energy, sort of time-warping between the Great Depression, a horror film, and a fashion shoot. Reality is so surreal that capturing it right now feels like a fantasy. It's making me be creative in new ways.

LEFT: EMILY UTNE; RIGHT: CARLA ALEXANDRA RODRIGUEZ

# ISOLATION

Portraits of Quarantine







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## CARLA ALEXANDRA RODRIGUEZ

@blkkhand

These are really different than the images I typically make. I shoot in a studio, indoors, but I didn't feel confident or safe in continuing portraits that way. There was three weeks or so where I didn't make anything, or know what I should or could do. Part of what I'm missing right now is human interaction. I thought I could do these tintype portraits at a safe distance, outdoors, using natural light, and longer exposures. I've got a mobile setup in my car, so I can go to people's homes and photo outside their homes, and then I hosted a pop-up at my home.

Tintype is a really honest medium, you can't really hide anything. With these, I was especially interested in capturing people in the moment, authentically, whether they're haggard or glowing -- thriving or not. That woman in the hat is named Francine; she was a stranger to me, I'd never met her.

She showed up at my house looking

## "I was especially interested in capturing people in the moment, authentically, whether they're haggard or glowing — thriving or not."

ethereal, and beautiful, in that white dress. She told me she'd been waiting a long time, and felt like this was the right time. It's really interesting that there's a desire to document this moment. I see someone who's really at peace with themselves, very serene, but... confronting. The way she was looking at me was very present, and calm. Like, "I'm here, I'm present, I'm witnessing this."

## MADALYN ROWELL

@curiouscumulus

I've always been fascinated by other people's lives and how they live at home and how they decorate their homes. All of our houses, whether we do interior

design or not, tell a story. And I've always been a Hitchcock fan, so. I started out doing this series a while ago and it was more editorial, a little more posed stuff, almost like movie stills or vignettes. And then as usual, I crash and burn with a project, and I kind of gave up on it. But then all this started and I was like... well, no one can say no now! I have a plethora of subjects!

I feel like before the project had a playful element, and even though that's still there, it's kind of like, just a reality now. It has a different meaning, and I think any viewer can identify with it more, but I hope that it's hopeful when people look at it -- what I want as an overarching theme is connectivity. Even though

we have the internet, it's easy to fall into isolating behaviors. We just want to have people over to our yards, we just want to have normalcy. But it's like, let's not forget that we're all doing it alone and together.

Every one feels really special. I just put out there: Hey, I need subjects, ideally people that have first or second-floor windows. It's so amazing that there's people in the community who see the value in it and want to be a part of it. Because I do think art is essential. I have so much gratitude toward the community for supporting artists like myself and everyone else that's shooting right now. We couldn't do it without you all. And if you have a space you want to shoot, reach out to any of us. There's tons of us doing work still.

## EMMA WONDRA

@emmawondra

Like many others I was, and still am, very scared about COVID-19. At first my fiancé and I began selling our things. We were really scrambling to try to make money in



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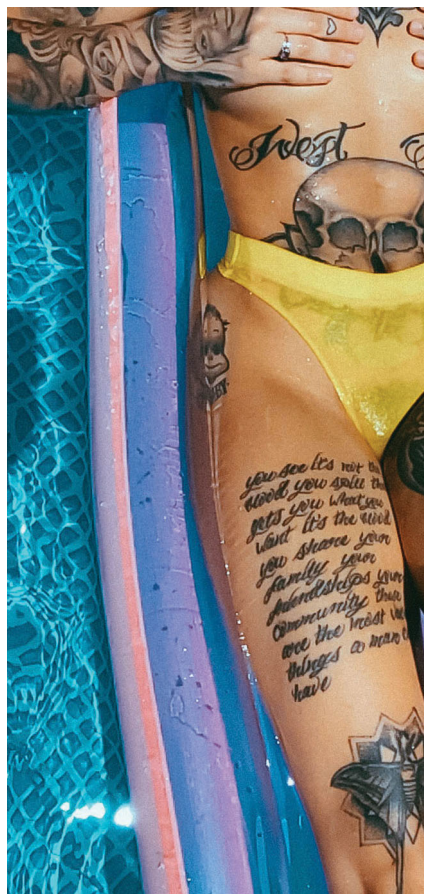
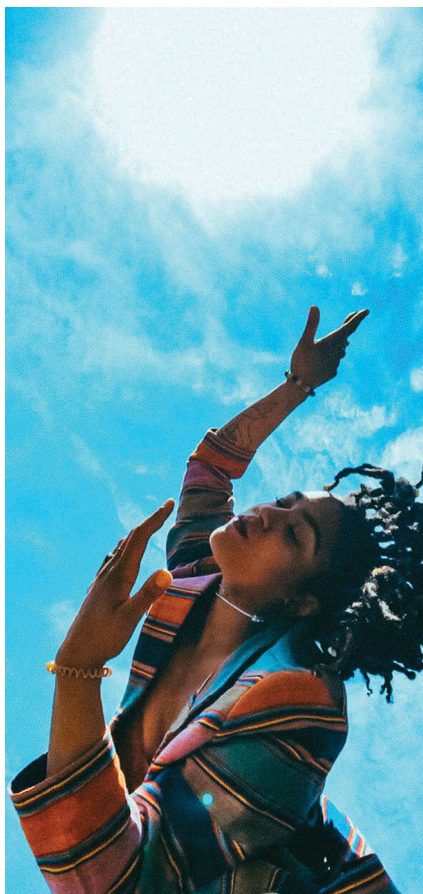
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any way that we could while unemployment wasn't kicking in. I started seeing other photographers experimenting with these virtual photoshoots on Instagram and decided to give it a shot.

Once I started sharing those images on Instagram I received a surprising amount of messages from folks asking to book with me! I didn't realize how far these virtual

FaceTime photoshoots would reach. Over FaceTime I've been all over California, Las Vegas, New York, Austria, London -- it's wild, and feels incredibly intimate that people allow me to photograph them in their most personal space. I got the chance to meet and virtually photograph Tess Holliday (@TessHolliday), a professional model, body-positive activist,

and creator of #effyourbeautystandards.

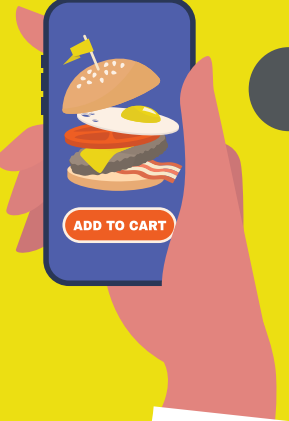
Being distant presents so many challenges. Virtual photographing felt so strange and silly compared to what we're all used to in the realm of photography. I had to experiment and explore a new way to show depth and perspective in my photographs and figure out what worked best for my editing style. A positive side

of social distancing (for myself, I can't speak for all artists) is learning to adapt and forcing myself to learn new things, some main ones being communication and trust. Something I'm told quite often from the people I photograph virtually is how much they've looked forward to creating art or even just "dressing up," and that really warms my heart.






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## CONNIE MROTEK

@conrad\_mumbles

My circumstances are slightly more extreme than some people's. My son is Type 1 diabetic. So almost immediately I started social distancing, staying at home, and canceled all my appointments. I was focused on editing some photos, and then moved into self-portraits, which I don't really do.

I saw some people playing around with Facetime photos. At first I thought it was kind of stupid. But I saw talented people, people I look up to, were doing it. I wanted to try. At first I tried taking photographs of the screen with my camera. Now I do screenshots. It's more difficult, that's for sure. I don't think my style of subject matter has changed, though now it's more a window into that person's life, since they're at home.

Like, everyone has a bathroom, and basically uses it for the same reason, so let's try to make it interesting, or sexy, or cool. I really like the shots of the woman in the bathtub with the mirror. That's Dani, she's a friend of mine, and a model. It's always easier to shoot when it's someone you've worked with. Most of the things I do are sexy, or empowerment photos. I've spent the past few years photographing to hone in on my style. I'm not trying to change anything, I'm trying to open this up as another arm of my art and my business.

## CARINA LOFGREN

@portraitsfrom6ft

"Portraits from 6ft" is a series of environmental portraits of people at their quarantine or workspaces. The intention is to capture what life is like at this time as authentically as possible, so, naturally, homes and workspaces are the best reflections of that. Many of the stories are of artists, business owners, and restaurants. As a small-business owner and creative, I know how challenging it can be to support yourself when times are good, and how catastrophic an unexpected event like COVID-19 can be. Watching the community hurt is devastating.

Maggie Thompson, a talented textile artist and owner of Makwa Studio, was my first portrait. She shared on social media how she was let go from her job and trying to now support herself fully with her business, which at the time she was unable to do. [Another] one that sticks out currently is the portraits with Bachelor Farmer chef Jonathan Gans. When we were taking photos, TBF was planning on reopening, but since then the decision was made to close forever. Looking at the pictures now and going back to that moment just a few weeks ago really illustrates the uncertainty of this time.

Before COVID times, most of my photography was event-related. I love event







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[lalahomemadeicecream.square.site](http://lalahomemadeicecream.square.site)
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TUESDAY - SUNDAY  
NOON - 8PM**

Uptown Minneapolis  
3146 Hennepin Ave S  
[LaLaHomemadeIceCream.com](http://LaLaHomemadeIceCream.com)



photography because I can be a fly on the wall, vicariously experiencing the events and emotions of the occasion. This project feels intuitive, like event photography, as shoots are not super planned in advance. I cannot predict what I am going to capture, and I leave each time feeling inspired and more connected to the community. It requires a lot of trust, which feels rare at this time. A handful of people I've captured I've never met before, and via Instagram, they're giving me personal information like their address before knowing what I look like.

I encourage people to read the stories of everyone impacted. Support their work and businesses, or give them a follow.

## ZOE PRINDS-FLASH

@zpfiff

I started this series as a way to get outside. I live alone, but I'm really social. All my business went away, with weddings postponed. My first thought was, how do I keep making art? I wanted to get into shooting medium-format film. It started with me asking a few friends if they would pose outside. I've been biking an average of 20 miles a day, with this backpack, which is really heavy. It's let me reassess what I really love about photography in general, and create something meaningful to me.

That couple is Lucia and Dom. She's a hairstylist I know through the music



Dom Berendt and  
Lucia Heinrich

## “There are a lot of heightened emotions right now. I really want to find a pause.”

scene. They've been making tie dye with their kids every day. I had to find a way to bring the energy down, because kids tend to run around. When I would shoot families pre-COVID, I'm on the floor with them, getting really intense action shots. This has been an experience in trying to find stillness and quiet.

I want these to feel timeless, so I'm asking people to relax the muscles around their face, and look into the distance behind me. I tell them to take an inhale and an exhale, and let their shoulders fall down. I want to bring about thoughtfulness, meditateness. There are a lot of heightened emotions right now. I really want to find a pause, some sort of solid resilience, and something slow and methodical. Life is so insane right now.

## NINA LUNA

@thisisninaluna

I shoot a lot of portraits for local musi-

cians, promotional photos, stuff like that. None of that has been happening. Because I haven't done any paid photo work during this time I've just been working creatively, artistically. I like to shoot in nature. The dark-haired woman is my friend Sophia, she's a model and an actress.

I use myself as a subject when I don't have anybody else, just using a self-timer on a digital camera. In hindsight, I feel like they capture a feeling of this childhood innocence, like being out in the woods by yourself, having that time to be in your imagination. I was always going towards a lighter mood, a little bit of escapism.

Instead of documenting this quarantine period, I'd rather do more of a fantasy, a daydream, embracing the fact that it's spring and we can be outside. As an artist if you want to keep going and not get bogged down you have to be able to maintain some kind of inner world where you have creativity, inspiration, even if it's on a small scale. 







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Thursday, May 14 || 8:30 am  
**Building a Giant Pyramid of Empty Beer Cans in the Lobby**  
feat. Craig, House Manager

Saturday, May 16 || 8:00 pm  
**Roadhouse**  
Live One-Man Stage Performance  
feat. Craig, House Manager, as Dalton

Friday, May 15 || 8:30 am  
**Driving Empty Beer Cans to Michigan for Recycling**  
feat. Craig, House Manager

Monday, May 18 || 12:00 pm  
**Live Action Donkey Kong Using Empty Kegs on the Basement Stairs**  
feat. Craig, House Manager

Saturday, May 16 || 1:00 pm  
**Pitch Black (2020) Digital**  
Saturday Matinee

Tuesday, May 19 || 12:00 pm  
**Rock Paper Scissors Tournament in Front of the Bathroom Mirror**  
feat. Craig, House Manager

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## DISTILLERS FUNDING ONE MILLION FOOD BANK MEALS WITH HAND SANITIZER SALES

**R**ound about when things first took a turn for the viral, local distillers Du Nord Craft Spirits, Tattersall Distilling, and Brother Justus first banded together like a super group of boozy Robin Hoods. They even picked a new name for their merry mission, which entailed spreading the opposite of contagion: All Hands MN. Through their intimate knowledge of alcohol's germ-killing properties, All Hands switched gears (and facilities) to produce hand sanitizer for those on the frontlines, staving off some of the more dire shortages.

"Until now, we've been focused on bulk production and getting sanitizer to large organizations such as the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, nursing homes and hospitals across the state," explained Jon Kreidler, founder of Tattersall Distilling.

Kreidler continued to say All Hands' focus has shifted—or perhaps, expanded—since that first phase of production, in which they created nearly 80,000 gallons of World Health Organization-grade sanitizer for over 2,000 community organizations and essential businesses, more than doubling their initial goal.

Since then, All Hands has partnered with distributor Johnson Brothers and local grocers to meet demands on the customer side of things—without losing sight of the greater-good mentality that first launched the distillers' coalition.

In this new, second phase, All Hands has released 60,000 bottles of sanitizer (priced at \$12.99 per 32-ounce spray bottle) to the average Joe Schmo. Starting May 8, customers could begin to find them on shelves at Lunds & Byerlys, Cub Foods, Hy-Vee, and Kowalski's throughout Minnesota.

In addition to the benefit of having, well, fewer germ-y surfaces in Minnesota (if purchased and put to good use\*), All Hands announced they'll be donating proceeds from sanitizer sales directly to Second Harvest Heartland.

And assuming all 60,000 bottles sell? (Which they should, because we can never be too clean right now!) Second Harvest Heartland anticipates those funds will translate to one million meals for those in need.

"This is a perfect example of the creativity and shared effort it will take to get us through these tough times," said Second Harvest Heartland's Allison O'Toole.



COURTESY OF SLADE KEMMET MEDIA

So when next restocking on essential items, consider how much good could be done with being even cleaner, eh?

\*Don't inject their sanitizer. Don't huff their sanitizer. And NO, don't drink the sanitizer, even if it IS made by ultra-talented distillers. —SARAH BRUMBLE

## ST. PAUL RESTAURANTS LOSE BIKE LANE FIGHT

A cohort of eight local businesses took a proposal to St. Paul's City Council seeking to postpone the development of bike lanes slated for construction near their storefronts this fall.

Last Wednesday, May 6, City Council President Amy Brendmoen described the existing Capital City Bikeway as "a little odd" in its current state. In a unanimous vote, the council approved the growth of another leg in the form of the 10th Street Bikeway—in spite of restaurants' pleas.

The business owners behind the petition included representatives from Keys Cafe,

Black Sheep Pizza, Camp, Sawatdee, Jimmy Johns, Tin Whiskers Brewing, and more. They said the parking spots eliminated by the 10th Street Bikeway are critical for delivery drivers and customers at this time, as restaurants find themselves freshly dependent upon vehicle-based delivery and take-away to weather the pandemic.

At stake were 18 parking spots along 10th Street. In total, the businesses face the loss of 65 spots affected by progress on 9th, 10th, and Robert streets, as the former pair are converted into one-ways, and a rapid transit bus line from White Bear Lake is installed on the latter.

In a letter addressed to Mayor Carter and the City Council and signed by the group members, they'd asked for a postponement in deploying the bike lanes on 10th Street at this time.

"Being in an active downtown also means making sure there are a variety of transportation options for residents and our customers," they wrote, stating

support for "a robust transit system," before noting the challenge involved in "making sure all of this work is done in coordination to create the best plan and take fully into account how these projects will impact all stakeholders."

For Carol Hunn-Gregory, owner of Keys Cafe and Bakery on Robert Street, this perceived lack of coordination between the government's left and right hands is taking a toll.

"The city and met council, or the public works.... They're not communicating," said Hunn-Gregory, who'd hoped to find a solution that everyone could live with. "[They're] going to leave 25 parking spots for a whole building, for our whole group of businesses, and the people in the building."

"The unique thing is they're taking two streets and turning them both into one-ways, which operationally for a restaurant—especially now with COVID where there's so much takeout—is really problematic," explained Jordan Smith, owner of Black Sheep Pizza.

Smith, himself a bike commuter, also sought the postponement due to the confluence of the rapid transit line with the bike lane and shifting traffic patterns. "There's a lot of moving parts that weren't really considered prior to putting the project into place," he said. "It's a huge reduction of parking. Seventy-five percent of our customers drive there and have said they wouldn't come. So that's very frightening, especially now [during the pandemic]."

To be clear, the cohort's opposition to ceding these parking spots predated COVID-19. (The development of Jackson Street a couple years ago began the process of chipping away by knocking out all of that corridor's parking.) In our chat, Smith referenced a report surveying nearly 800 of their customers from this January and February, which revealed an unwillingness on the part of St. Paul's existing clientele to walk more than two blocks.

But when COVID-19 came along, it brought with it a new urgency in the form of shuttered dining rooms, increased restrictions for businesses, and an increased dependency by restaurants and breweries on curbside takeout and third-party delivery services like Uber, DoorDash, and Drizly to stay solvent.

"I'm in support of bikers, but it's just like: Where do you draw the line?" asked Hunn-Gregory. "It's destroying businesses and a tax base. How are you going to get that back?" —SARAH BRUMBLE





GETTY

## WEIRD WANTS

We're buying lots of odds and ends in lockdown

**W**e're all already online shoppers, but when we can't leave home we've found that we make some weird impulse buys. Some of us indulge, others get projects done, and some make awesomely ridiculous choices.

**EMILY CASSEL**  
Editor-In-Chief

**What weird shit are you buying these days?**  
I bought one (1) pair of Realtree (®) Camo Crocs (TM). The All Terrain ones.

### Why?

Well, my good friend (and occasional CP contributor) Joel "Sweet Beef" Swenson has long been a Crocs evangelist, which I was always like, "Ha ha. Okay, buddy. Enjoy your clunky styrofoam sandals!" Then I started spending my entire god-damn day at home, realized I needed a good pair of house/yard shoes, and am now the kind of person who shamelessly sports these in public.

**Would you have still purchased it if you weren't in lockdown?**

### weren't in lockdown?

Probably not! But I regret to inform you that Crocs are in fact good as hell. I'm one-thousand percent a convert. Actually my roommate tried them on a week or two ago and bought a pair for herself, and yesterday I found myself wishing I had a pair to keep by the front door *and* the back door of the house, so. Odds are pretty good we'll be a three-pairs-of-Crocs household before long.

**SHELBY LANO**  
Layout Editor

**What weird shit are you buying these days?**  
A skincare mini-fridge for holding my masks and facial massage tools.

### Why?

Because SHOPPING IS A FEELING. Also, I haven't been wearing makeup most days so I've been leaning more into my skincare routine to practice some sort of self-care and to look less rough.

**Would you have still purchased this if you weren't in lockdown?**

Probably not. I've known about this thing

for a while and thought it was pretty extra. But I've turned to shopping for a serotonin boost, it was Sephora's spring sale, and in general this lockdown has been giving me a weird relationship with my face. In conclusion, I said "yes" to the tiny fridge.

**SUSAN DU**  
Staff Writer

**What weird shit are you buying these days?**

*The Amish Reckoning* by Jocelyn McClay. It's a romance novel about Samuel Shrock, an Amish Casanova, and Abigail Lapp, a spirited girl who likes horses. There's small-town intrigue, a Lady Catherine-esque villainess, nice guys who throw themselves in harm's way to protect children, and a smattering of Pennsylvania Dutch. Apparently Amish romance is extremely popular, particularly among fans of the sweet and chaste. Like Korean drama.

### Why?

It was written by my friend's mom. Now a group of us are discussing it for our Zoom book club.

**Would you have still purchased it if you weren't in lockdown?**

I've been meaning to read it for ages but kept forgetting. Quarantine seemed like the ideal time. This particular copy is from Magers & Quinn.

**SARAH BRUMBLE**  
Food Editor

**What weird shit are you buying these days?**

My household jointly purchased a massive fake banana plant, for which I feel like a true asshole even though it definitely goes a long way to bringing our office to life. Then on my very own, like a big girl, I acquired these (little-kid size large) bubblegum-pink roller blades with light-up wheels.

### Why?

With no one going to work, a parking lot that's normally filled with cars behind my place opened up into the perfect roller rink, and I thought I should get a little dumb exercise. As for the plant, my home office is getting more attention these days.... It was either this monstrosity or laying wall-to-wall astroturf.

**Would you have still purchased it if you weren't in lockdown?**

Truly debatable for both.

**JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**  
Arts Editor

**What weird shit are you buying these days?**

My answer is going to be boring AF compared to the rest here, but it's weird just for the combination of random things: tiny batteries, a pack of colorful Bic pens, Witcher III for PS4, and a sock organizer.

### Why?

In 2018, I awoke in the night to a very loud beeping from my smoke detector, alerting me that its battery was dying. In a sleep-blind rage, I got a chair and ripped the thing out of the ceiling only to discover that it wasn't the thing that was beeping. Turns out my apartment had another smoke detector—one that had been ripped off a wall and hidden by the previous tenant in the back of my very deep closet. Two years later, I have finally replaced the battery and reinstalled it on the wall.

As for the others, the one pen I had in my apartment ran out of ink, I finished my last PS4 game (*Assassin's Creed Syndicate*), and I was finally ready to get serious about sock organization.

**Would you have still purchased this if you weren't in lockdown?**

I would say "yes" to the pens and video game, but I probably would have continued to neglect that second smoke detector and my sock drawer if it weren't for quarantine. 📺



FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Breznysy

**♈ ARIES** (March 21-April 19): During a pandemic, is it possible to spread the news about your talents and offerings? Yes! That's why I suggest you make sure that everyone who should know about you does indeed know about you. To mobilize your efforts and stimulate your imagination, I came up with colorful titles for you to use to describe yourself on your résumé or in promotional materials or during conversations with potential helpers. 1. Fire-Maker 2. Seed-Sower 3. Brisk Instigator 4. Hope Fiend 5. Gap Leaper 6. Fertility Aficionado 7. Gleam Finder 8. Launch Catalyst 9. Chief Improviser 10. Change Artist.

**♉ TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Of all the signs, Taurus are among the least likely to be egomaniacs. Most of you aren't inclined to indulge in fits of braggadocio or outbreaks of narcissism. (I just heard one of my favorite virtuoso Taurus singers say she wasn't a very good singer!) That's why one of my secret agendas is to tell you how gorgeous you are, to nudge you to cultivate the confidence and pride you deserve to have. Are you ready to leap to a higher octave of self-love? I think so. In the coming weeks, please use Taurus artist Salvador Dalí's boast as your motto: "There comes a moment in every person's life when they realize they adore me."

**♊ GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): When I was young, I had a fun-filled fling with a smart Gemini woman who years later became a highly praised author and the authorized biographer of a Nobel Prize-winning writer. Do I regret our break-up? Am I sorry I never got to enjoy her remarkable success up close? No. As amazing as she was and is, we wouldn't have been right for each other long-term. I am content with the brief magic we created together, and have always kept her in my fond thoughts with gratitude and the wish for her to thrive. Now I invite you to do something comparable to what I just did, Gemini: Make peace with your past. Send blessings to the people who helped make you who you are. Celebrate what has actually happened in your life, and graduate forever from what might have happened but didn't.

**♋ CANCER** (June 21-July 22): "You have two ways to live your life, from memory or from inspiration," writes teacher Joe Vitale. Many of you Cancerians favor memory over inspiration to provide their primary motivation. That's not necessarily a bad thing, although it can be a problem if you become so obsessed with memory that you distract yourself from creating new developments in your life story. But in accordance with astrological potentials and the exigencies of our Global Healing Crisis, I urge you, in the coming weeks, to mobilize yourself through a balance of memory and inspiration. I suspect you'll be getting rich opportunities to both rework the past and dream up a future full of interesting novelty. In fact, those two imperatives will serve each other well.

**♌ LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Author Anne Lamott has some crucial advice for you to heed in the coming weeks. "Even when we're most sure that love can't conquer all," she says, "it seems to anyway. It goes down into the rat hole with us, in the guise of our friends, and there it swells and comforts. It gives us second winds, third winds, hundredth winds." I hope you'll wield this truth as your secret magic in the coming weeks, Leo. Regard love not just as a sweet emotion that makes you feel good, but as a superpower that can accomplish practical miracles.

**♍ VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Theologian St. Catherine of Siena observed, "To a brave person, good and bad luck are like her left and right hand. She uses both." The funny thing is, Virgo, that in the past you have sometimes been more adept and proactive in using your bad luck, and less skillful at capitalizing on your good luck. But from what I can tell, this curious problem has been diminishing for you in 2020—and will continue to do so. I expect that in the coming weeks, you will welcome and harness your good luck with brisk artistry.

**♎ LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "I'm curious about everything, except what people have to say about me," says actor Sarah Jessica Parker. I think that's an excellent strategy for you to adopt in the coming weeks. On the one hand, the whole world will be exceptionally interesting, and your ability to learn valuable lessons and acquire useful information will be at peak. On the other hand, one of the keys to getting the most out of the wealth of catalytic influences will be to cultivate nonchalance about people's opinions of you.

**♏ SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): On the kids' TV show *Sesame Street*, there's a puppet character named Count von Count. He's a friendly vampire who loves to count things. He is 6,523,730 years old and his favorite number is 34,969—the square root of 187. The Count was "born" on November 13, 1972, when he made his first appearance on the show, which means he's a Scorpio. I propose we make him your patron saint for the next four weeks. It's an excellent time to transform any threatening qualities you might seem to have into harmless and cordial forms of expression. It's also a favorable phase for you to count your blessings and make plans that will contribute to your longevity.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "No one ever found wisdom without also being a fool," writes novelist Erica Jong. "Until you're ready to look foolish, you'll never have the possibility of being great," says singer Cher. "He dares to be a fool, and that is the first step in the direction of wisdom," declared art critic James Hume. "Almost all new ideas have a certain aspect of foolishness when they are first produced," observed philosopher Alfred North Whitehead. According to my analysis of astrological omens, you're primed to prove these theories, Sagittarius. Congratulations!

**♑ CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "Few people have a treasure," writes Nobel Prize-winning author Alice Munro. She's speaking metaphorically, of course—not referring to a strongbox full of gold and jewels. But I'm happy to inform you that if you don't have a treasure, the coming months will be a favorable time to find or create it. So I'm putting you on a High Alert for Treasure. I urge you to be receptive to and hungry for it. And if you are one of those rare lucky ones who already has a treasure, I'm happy to say that you now have the power and motivation to appreciate it even more and learn how to make even better use of it. Whether you do or don't yet have the treasure, heed these further words from Alice Munro: "You must hang onto it. You must not let yourself be waylaid, and have it taken from you."

**♒ AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): At this moment, there are 50 trillion cells in your body, and each of them is a sentient being in its own right. They act together as a community, consecrating you with their astonishing collaboration. It's like magic! Here's an amazing fact: Just as you communicate with dogs and cats and other animals, you can engage in dialogs with your cells. The coming weeks will be a ripe time to explore this phenomenon. Is there anything you'd like to say to the tiny creatures living in your stomach or lungs? Any information you'd love to receive from your heart or your sex organs? If you have trouble believing this is a real possibility, imagine and pretend. And have fun!

**♓ PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): "A myriad of modest delights constitute happiness," wrote poet Charles Baudelaire. I think that definition will serve you well in the coming weeks, Pisces. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, there won't be spectacular breakthroughs barging into your life; I expect no sublime epiphanies or radiant transformations. On the other hand, there'll be a steady stream of small marvels if you're receptive to such a possibility. Here's key advice: Don't miss the small wonders because you're expecting and wishing for bigger splashes.

CROSSWORD

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UNIT TEST

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Bits of bullshit
- 5 Letter-shaped construction beam
- 9 Bearded animals that lions prey on
- 13 Color of the sea
- 14 Join together as one
- 15 Blowup bed brand
- 16 Steak, when served with lobster
- 17 Overused
- 18 Bar sold in pairs
- 19 Entertains with force?
- 22 Fancy case
- 23 Klutzy sorts
- 25 Energetic rap act?
- 30 Parceled (out)
- 33 Way to go crazy
- 34 Shuttlecock's path
- 35 Grp. concerned with fall protection
- 36 Ride hard
- 38 In that matter
- 39 Colored line in the Uber app: Abbr.
- 40 Its motto is "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain."
- 41 Take it from the top?
- 42 Powerful in any event?
- 46 It might be put to one's face in embarrassment
- 47 "That's why!"
- 51 "Facts are facts," frequently?
- 55 Indian wrap
- 57 Maker of Tamiflu and Valium
- 58 Tuber used for poi

- 59 Make a movement
- 60 Behind 100%
- 61 Shortly, quaintly
- 62 "thank u, \_\_\_\_" (Ariana Grande)
- 63 AutoCad creation
- 64 Wear a sulky face

Down

- 1 Mufti's decree
- 2 "The hell with this game"
- 3 Charred to bits
- 4 Place where nobody gets hurt
- 5 How some fish or butterflies are caught
- 6 Tie things up?
- 7 Not very much
- 8 Depend (on)
- 9 French cake
- 10 Broadcast interruption
- 11 Sch. just outside of Providence
- 12 Guaranteed Rate Field team, for short
- 14 Berlin's subway system
- 20 Gulf War missile
- 21 Tablet that comes with GlowLight
- 24 Big name in mattresses
- 26 Van \_\_\_\_ (sobriquet for a hard rock band when Sammy was their lead singer)
- 27 Style similar to goth
- 28 "The Mandalorian" creator Favreau
- 29 Edinburgh citizen
- 30 Poetic time before lunch

- 31 Bar in court
- 32 1999 sci-fi movie that used wire fu
- 36 Turn bad
- 37 Amazement
- 38 Bloodiest battle in the Civil War
- 40 "This is exactly how I feel," in some social media shares
- 41 State with the lowest income inequality
- 43 "Java" trumpeter
- 44 At the middle
- 45 Pale with fear
- 48 Product that unclogs
- 49 Razor sharpener
- 50 Gas that provides cover
- 52 Evil puzzle maker's ploy
- 53 Stay on a hot streak
- 54 Sch. whose student-athletes have won the most Olympic medals
- 55 ID that can never begin 666
- 56 Swallowed

Last Week's Answer

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# Change the Locks

My boyfriend left because he thinks I put a curse on him. Now what?



Dan Savage

I'm a 38-year-old gay male. I've been dating this guy for a year and 10 months, and it's been a lot of work. He cheated on me numerous times. He lives with me and doesn't work, and I've been taking care of him. He accuses me of cheating, or finds something to blame me for. For the past four months he's been accusing me of playing games by conspiring with people to make him hear voices. If I look up at the ceiling or look around he says I'm communicating with "them." He also says I put a curse on him. One day he packed his bags, said he'd had enough, and walked out. This is a man who has been doing coke since 14 and is now 43 years old. He does meth and whatever else. He said until I come clean about hearing the voices and admit I cast a spell on him he won't talk to or see me. Mental illness runs in his family and one sibling already committed suicide. He didn't want professional help because, he says, "I am too smart for that." I'm hurt and angry and want some advice.

DESPERATE FOR ANSWERS

### I don't see the problem.

A delusional and potentially dangerous drug addict with mental health issues who refuses to get help packed his bags and walked out of your life. Yahtzee, DFA, you win. His presence in your life was the problem, and he just solved it for you. Block his number, change your locks, and pray he forgets your address.

And seek some professional help to learn why you wasted nearly two years on this asshole. He wasn't just a danger to himself, DFA, he was a danger to you. He's out of your apartment—now you need to get him out of your head.

About a month ago I broke up with my boyfriend after I found out he was cheating on me. Long before that I had a rash that I think was herpes all along. I just found out for sure and I'm thinking about not telling him. He doesn't show symptoms and he's the type of guy who will call me a slut if I do tell him. He'll blame me for his wrongdoing and cause a huge problem between us. He has a lot of anger issues and he could use this as blackmail. I'm legitimately scared.

HER EX REACTS PERSONALLY

Letting a former sex partner know you may have exposed them to an STI—or that they may have exposed you to an STI—is the decent, responsible, courteous, and kind thing to do. Not just for their health and safety, HERP, but for the health and safety of their future sex partners. But people who are unkind, scary, and violent have no one but themselves to blame when a former sex partner/girlfriend/boyfriend/enbyfriend is too afraid for their own safety to make that disclosure. Provided your fears are legitimate, HERP, and you're not inflating them to avoid an awkward or unpleasant conversation, you don't owe your ex a call.

I'm a teenage girl with a female friend who keeps joking about having sex with me. We're both into girls and sex, but while I find her really hot, she probably doesn't feel the same about me. How can I tell if she's joking about it because she finds the idea ridiculous or if she's joking about it because she actually wants to? Once everything goes back to normal COVID-wise, what should I do?

GETTING INTO REAL LIFE

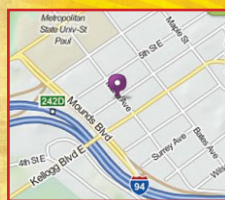
The ability to ask someone a direct question—particularly someone you're interested in romantically and/or sexually—is an important skill, GIRL, and getting some practice now, when stakes are relatively low, will benefit you all your life. Get your friend on the phone and ask her this: "Are you serious about wanting to have sex with me? It's fine if you don't want to, but I'm actually attracted to you. Please say no if the answer's no." If the answer is yes, you can make a date to get together once circumstances/pandemics allow. But if the answer is no, GIRL, then you can get some practice making declarative statements: "I don't want you to make those jokes anymore. They're hurtful to me." And if she continues to make jokes about having sex with you after you've made it clear she's hurting your feelings, she's being cruel and doesn't deserve your time, attention, or friendship.

mail@savagelove.net

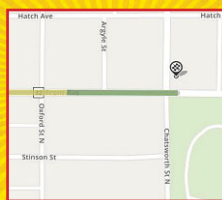
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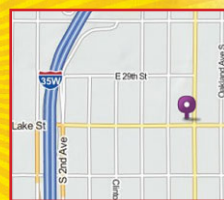
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**NOTICE OF SALE**

DATE OF NOTICE: 5/13/2020  
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VIN: WAUDF78E07A079647  
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OWNER LISTED: Jocelyn Horton 2876 Humboldt Avenue South #105 Minneapolis MN 55408  
LOCATION: 4840 Chicago Avenue South Garage #6, Minneapolis MN 55417.  
Under Sec 168B.051, the registered owner or lienholder has the right to reclaim the vehicle and is asked to contact Meadowview Management Group at 763-498-0099 or 612-388-5570 by the 20th of May by 5:00 pm.  
This vehicle has been abandoned in garage stall #6 at 4840 Chicago Avenue South since January 2012. If this vehicle is claimed by the owner listed, we will need payment in full of \$4300.00 for storage of the vehicle in garage stall #6 located at 4840 Chicago Avenue South from January 2012 through April 30th, 2020. Storage is calculated at \$50.00 per month.

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### Volunteer Opportunities in Response to COVID-19

In order to support community needs created by the Coronavirus outbreak, HandsOn Twin Cities has created a special Volunteer Hub with opportunities and guidelines for volunteering.

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